



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

TAB B

**MINUTES
NCLIS MEETING
DECEMBER 14-15, 1995**

Commissioners Present:

Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson; Martha Gould, Vice Chair; Shirley Adamovich; C. E. "Abe" Abramson, Commissioner-Designee; Walter Anderson, Commissioner-Designee (15th only); Joan Challinor (15th only); Carol DiPrete; Mary Furlong; Norman Kelson; Kay Riddle; Bobby Roberts; Gary Sudduth; Winston Tabb (14th only, accompanied by Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress); Barbara Taylor; Joel Valdez; and Robert Willard

Commissioners Absent:

LeVar Burton, Commissioner-Designee; Frank Lucchino

Staff Present:

Peter Young, Executive Director; Mary Alice Hedge, Associate Executive Director; John Lorenz, Coordinator, Library Statistics Program; Jane Williams, Research Associate; Kim Miller, Special Assistant; and Barbara Whiteleather, Special Assistant and Recording Secretary

Guests and Observers Present:

Richard Akeroyd, Liaison for COSLA; Marie Harris Aldridge, White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST); Charles Barone, U.S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Human Resources; Hon. James Billington, Librarian of Congress (NCLIS Permanent Member); Beth Bingham, Liaison for WHCLIST; Claude Blakely, Liaison for WHCLIST; Senator Conrad Burns, MT; David Evans, U.S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Human Resources; Carol Henderson, Executive Director, American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office; Peyton Neal, Liaison for ASIS; Frank Purcell, U.S. House of Representatives; Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee; Hon. Charles Reid, NCLIS Chairman Emeritus; Betty Turock, President, ALA; Jenny Smulson, U. S. Senate, Subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee; Elinor Swaim, NCLIS Vice Chairman

Thursday, December 14, 1995
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Chairperson Simon extended greetings to all present, noting the presence of Commissioner-Designee C. E. "Abe" Abramson of Missoula, MT. In response, Mr. Abramson assured the Commission that he has carefully read the NCLIS Public Law and is extremely pleased to have been nominated by the President to serve on NCLIS.

Chairperson Simon reported that the President had announced his intention to nominate LeVar Burton of Sherman Oaks, CA. Mr. Burton could not attend this meeting due to prior commitments. He does, however, travel often to New York and will plan a stop over in Washington, DC, to visit the office and meet staff.

New Commissioner Orientation

An NCLIS Orientation Session for new Commissioners was held in the NCLIS office on Wednesday, December 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants were: Jeanne Simon; Martha Gould; Mary Furlong; Abe Abramson; Bob Willard; Jane Williams; and Peter Young. Commissioner Challinor and Commissioner-Designees Anderson and Burton were unable to attend.

The orientation session reviewed:

- The establishment of NCLIS;
- The Commission's mission, composition, programs, goals; publications, etc.;
- NCLIS seven topic background summaries:
 - Libraries, Literacy, and Educational Reform,
 - Libraries and the National Information Infrastructure,
 - LSCA Reauthorization,
 - Federal Information Dissemination Policy,
 - Public/Private Sector Relationships,
 - Economics of Library Support,
 - Library Education and Training; and
- Other topics and issues.

NCLIS Minutes

MOTIONS

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Norman Kelson, to approve the following:

- Meeting Minutes, July 14-15, 1995; and
- NCLIS Conference Call Notes, September 13, 1995

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Barbara Taylor, seconded by Bobby Roberts, that the NCLIS Conference Call Notes, November 7, 1995, be approved, subject to the following correction: Page 1, third paragraph, line 2. Correct the word "advocation" to "avocation."

The motion carried unanimously.

Special Thanks to Commissioner Lucchino

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff, Chairperson Simon thanked Commissioner Lucchino for his advice and assistance in developing the agenda, arrangements, and activities for the July 14-15, 1995, meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. The Members also expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Lucchino and family for their wonderful hospitality.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Simon highlighted her NCLIS activities since July 1995.

- IFLA, Istanbul, Turkey, August 1995, accompanied by Commissioners Lucchino and Sudduth. The next IFLA Conference will be August 1996, in Beijing, Peoples Republic of China. Commissioners indicating an interest in this Conference were Gould, Abramson, Roberts, and Taylor. Other Members interested should notify the Chairperson. Funds for travel to IFLA are currently covered by the State Department's ICSOC program.
- Iowa Library Association Fall Conference, Des Moines, October 19. Keynote speaker.
- Wisconsin Library Association Conference, Appleton, October 25. Keynote speaker, opening session.

The Chairperson, Mr. Young, and Ms. Hedge have spent many hours on Capitol Hill discussing the NCLIS budget and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). "We do not lobby; rather we explain the work of the Commission and we proceed from there," Chairperson Simon explained.

Chairperson Simon concluded her report by stating, "I hope I am doing a good job as Chairperson and that you believe that I represent you well in both the House and Senate and in speaking to various associations and groups. It is delightful to work with the small, but wonderful, staff. I hope the Commission appreciates the staff's dedication and work."

Commissioner Adamovich praised the speeches presented by the Chairperson, which are, in large part, prepared by Mr. Young and Ms. Williams. The Commission extended its gratitude to Chairperson Simon for her patience and for being able to 'trim the sails' to meet Washington's changing tides.

James H. Billington

Hon. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, the only permanent Member of the Commission, attended the meeting, accompanied by Winston Tabb. Chairperson Simon thanked Dr. Billington and his staff for co-hosting the NCLIS 25th anniversary reception at the Library of Congress.

Dr. Billington reported that, in comparison to most other cultural institutions, the Library of Congress (LC) did not fare too badly in the 1995 budget wars, thanks in no small measure to timely and friendly voices around the country and to the National Digital Library (NDL).

There is wide bipartisan Congressional support for the NDL. Over the last four years, LC has lost about 12 percent of its staff due to mandated pay raises without the appropriation to cover them. In fact, LC would have received an actual cut this year, in addition to a de facto cut, were it not for the Digital Library, which has attracted much Congressional interest and support. FY 1996 will be a difficult budget year because of the "fixed" ceilings for the Legislative Branch. LC is in for a difficult time and decisions on cut-backs must be made.

Dr. Billington stated that NDL and electronic delivery are LC's main salvation. They are LC's way of showing how to extend traditional library services. "We are not distributing products, we are enlarging access. The traditional preservation access functions of LC have to be exercised in this electronic age. Electronics are a means to sustain the traditional services of libraries and enhance them in the new environment. Libraries are not perceived to be in real trouble by our public sector and, therefore, the substantial erosion in public support in almost all areas is not perceived to affect libraries as much. I am hopeful, in the long run, that we can get a much more proactive attitude toward libraries in Congress," he stated.

Chairperson Simon asked Dr. Billington his opinion of S.143 versus H.R. 1617. Dr. Billington responded, "It's very important that we not lose sight of the way in which libraries and museums differ. Museums are containers of interesting artifacts that you may want to visit once in a while, rather than centers for continuing education, enlightenment, inspiration, and answering curiosity. The risk is that our libraries could become museums -- but they cannot be seen as that; libraries themselves are not museums. Not to denigrate museums! But, I think there is a real difference. Libraries have a much more meaningful and direct relevance to education and for all types of social purposes. In conversations with many of our lawmakers, it is my sense that they have a vague, general liking for libraries without an appreciation for the dynamic side of what a library represents in the Information Age."

The Commission extended its appreciation to Dr. Billington for his insightful remarks.

Following Dr. Billington's remarks, several comments were made:

Commissioner Adamovich -- "It appears that the S. 143 will pass. . . . We do need to exist, even if we are relegated to being a museum personality."

Vice Chair Gould -- "Our allies, e.g., WHCLIST, COSLA, IIA, are the eyes and ears that can, from the state and local level, inform the Commission on the issues we should be addressing. This, then, becomes a 'two-way street of information'. I see this Commission beginning to work much more closely with allies in the field of information to bring more visibility to the role of libraries. We tend to talk among ourselves, but now with this type of movement, we are going to be forced to talk to the people who use our services. When you are at the bottom, the only place to go is up. NCLIS is very close to rock-bottom, and change is needed in how we do business in order to begin moving up again. If I have lemons, I make lemonade."

Commissioner Furlong reported that during the orientation session participants suggested one possible role for NCLIS would be to begin thinking about the human infrastructure: how the human infrastructure could help support digital collections and services by enabling the library to reach out more widely. Dr. Billington thought this an excellent idea and emphasized the need to focus on training people for creation of quality products and content on the Internet.

Commissioner Furlong suggested that two other challenges for the NCLIS would be to study: (1) the need to dramatize the role of librarians as knowledge navigators; and (2) the role of librarians as intermediaries. She emphasized the importance of private/public partnerships and alluded to many of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee's (NIIAC) recommendations in the area of knowledge navigation. Dr. Billington offered LC's cooperation and reported that some progress is being made in this area through a Kellogg Foundation grant -- but it is just a small drop in a very large

bucket! "If there is any way we can work with you on this, we would be happy to," he offered.

As a personal note to Dr. Billington, Commissioner Willard stated, "I always tell people that NCLIS is made up of 14 Members, plus the Librarian of Congress, and that fact gives us a very strong image within our constituencies. I am delighted you are here, and I encourage you to spend more time with us, both from the value you give to us and from the perspective that we can offer you."

Executive Director's Report

The December Executive Director's Report highlights:

1. Commissioners;
2. Plans for this Commission meeting;
3. The NCLIS Budget Outlook for FY 1996;
4. Congressional Initiatives for Federal Programs Supporting Libraries;
5. NCLIS 1996 Survey of Public Libraries and the Internet/NII;
6. Library Statistics Program;
7. Recent News Reports about Family Friendly Libraries Group;
8. Recent U.S. Postal Service Kiosk Announcements; and
9. Telecommunications Regulation Reform Proposals

The report is included in the meeting notebook, Tab C.

Library Services and Technology Act

The Members welcomed David Evans, Staff Director, U.S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Human Resources (office of Senator Claiborne Pell, D-RI), Jenny Smulson, Professional Staff Member, U.S. Senate, Subcommittee of the Labor and Human Resources Committee (office of Senator James Jefford, R-VT), Charles Barone, U. S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Human Resources (office of Senator Paul Simon (D-IL); and Frank Purcell, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. House of Representatives, Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee (office of the Representative Duke Cunningham, R-CA). The staff persons were invited to discuss S. 143, "Workforce Development Act", and H.R. 1617, "Consolidated and Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Systems Act; CAREERS Act of 1995".

Mr. Evans began by stating that S. 143, Institute of Museum and Library Services, is a true bi-partisan effort with strong support and effort from Senators Pell, Jeffords, and Simon. This legislation was drafted with the strong concern that, historically, libraries and library services have been treated as 'step children' within the U.S. Department of Education, regardless of the Administration.

The idea was to 'set libraries free,' to hoist them into a position where they could be their own advocates, and to develop a real 'synergy' between libraries and museums, particularly as we move into the Technology Age. With this in mind, the bill proposes the creation of the Institute of Museum and Library Services so that libraries would be in an agency of its own, along with museums. The staff believes this proposal gives greater visibility to library issues and permits those issues to be articulated, not up through a departmental bureaucracy, but straight out to the Office of Management and Budget, appropriators, and the community. "This is an exciting proposal which protects both libraries and museums by granting separate authorizations and appropriations. In this way, one does not overwhelm the other," Mr. Evans explained.

The Senate staff and NCLIS have worked very close to share ideas. The Senate staff is now working to convince their colleagues on the House side about the wisdom of this approach. Mr. Evans believes that NCLIS (as well as others involved in national library services) has a critical role to play in helping to determine whether or not this legislation succeeds in conference early in 1996.

Mr. Evans cited the following story as one of the best reasons this proposal should succeed: "There was a exhibit of dinosaurs in a museum in Omaha. After the tour, the group moved to another room. Then every child was handed a library card application so that they could go from the museum to the library and add to their knowledge of what they had just seen."

Mr. Evans concluded, "With S.143, libraries will finally have the national focus and articulation that we have tried to achieve for so long." Jennifer Smulson agreed with Mr. Evans, adding, "By our working together, there are so many opportunities for wonderful things to be done." Charles Barone complimented the people drafting this proposal and stated, "There is a certain vision behind this piece of legislation and that vision, and the possibilities, become more apparent after reading the entire legislation. The proposal makes good sense, and we have a strong case to make."

Mr. Frank Purcell presented the House version of H.R 1617, "Consolidated and Reformed Education, Employment, and Rehabilitation Systems Act, CAREERS Act of 1995". This proposal focuses on technology, on connecting libraries with the information superhighway, placing libraries in the forefront of the Information Age, and placing the Information Age at the hands of the individuals who most use libraries, since the public may or may not be able to afford such access on their own.

Mr. Purcell noted that the House and Senate versions have vast differences in structure and governance, and that side-by-side versions of the two bills are now being studied. He feels that the Senate version does have some interesting ideas; however, H.R. 1617 should be considered for its simplicity, consistency, and focus on technology and services.

Mr. Purcell stated, "I can assure you, from the very highest levels of the House of Representatives, there is a commitment and interest in libraries. The Speaker of the House has expressed in writing his desire to find a way to ensure authorization for libraries. Likewise, libraries are an important issue for Chairman Cunningham and, despite their small size in dollars, he watches developments very closely with deep and personal interest. Libraries work, and they work very well. We want to continue to expand libraries so that they will continue to play an important part in the improvement of our communities for the 21st century."

Following Commissioner comments regarding various state evaluation methods, Ms. Hedge suggested that the draft legislation include a five-year trial period to review how it has worked -- or has not worked -- and for reporting back to Congress. This would provide a 'life boat' in the interim and, perhaps, a new 'synergy' could develop. Commissioner Willard suggested this would be a perfect task for the Commission.

Legislative Update

Jane Williams presented an update to the *December Legislative Report*, included under Tab D of the meeting notebook, by highlighting items of particular interest:

Like many other agencies, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is behind in review of the Commission's request for FY 1997. Ms. Williams believes that both Houses will return to some of the questions focused on in early 1995: agency size, cost, function, and elimination and consolidation of many departments and agencies. There are draft bills to consolidate the Departments of Education, Labor, and the Equal Opportunities Commission. There are other bills to eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce. Another interesting development is the draft bill calling for consolidating all statistical agencies, e.g., the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Affairs, and smaller statistical agencies.

Ms. Williams predicted that there will be continuing efforts to streamline and cut-back. "We have seen the demise of the Office of Technology Assessment, which prepared several critical reports of interest to the Congress and NCLIS, i.e., *"Informing the Nation About Technology in the Information Age"*. The Office of Personnel Management has been drastically cut and is now a shadow of its former self. And, these efforts will continue," she cautioned.

Another item of interest is the production and dissemination of federal information -- how that rests in the legislative vs. the executive branches and who has control of policies related to government information.

In discussing the Exon Amendment to S.652 and free speech in a digital environment, Commissioner Willard noted that the NIIAC adopted the following recommendation:

"The government should not be in the business of regulating content on the Information Superhighway. It should defer to the use of privately provided filtering, reviewing and rating mechanisms, and parental supervision as the best means of preventing access by minors to inappropriate materials."

Discussion on this topic was held on December 15.

NCLIS 25th Anniversary

Commissioner Taylor, Chair, NCLIS 25th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee, praised Jane Williams, Peter Young, Committee Members, and Chairperson Simon for their invaluable input and hard work. Committee Members are: Challinor; Riddle, Roberts, Sudduth, and Willard.

Commissioner Taylor requested and received Chairperson Simon's permission for NCLIS to become a member of the *50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Community*. NCLIS qualifies for membership based on the belief that today's children are not adequately educated about the events of World War II and to avoid World War III, the children need to learn and libraries are key to this knowledge. As a result of this membership, plans have been made for General Kicklighter to present Chairperson Simon with a commemorative flag and certificate at the reception immediately following Dr. Billington's speech at the 25th anniversary reception.

The Committee has developed guidelines for NCLIS' Silver Anniversary Awards. The deadline for nominations was November 30, 1995, however, it has been extended until December 31 for additional nominations from Commissioners. Approximately 35 nominations have been received. After review the Committee will present their 25 recommendations to the Chairperson for her approval no later than January 31, 1996. The final list of recipients will be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Thanks to the generosity of current and former Commissioners and staff, sufficient funds were received to cover the cost of the LC reception. [Mr. Claude Blakely, Liaison for WHCLIST, announced that WHCLIST would contribute \$500.00 to the gift account.] However, additional funds are needed to cover the costs of the award recipients' gifts and for publishing a report. The Center for the Book has offered to pay 50 percent of the publishing costs. Arrangements will try to be made for Commissioners living closest to individual recipients to present the award. A national recognition ceremony will be planned for all 25 recipients, perhaps during Library Week or on Legislation Day in April 1996, with recipients paying their own way. As previously reported, the celebration of NCLIS' 25th anniversary will continue until July 1996.

[Commissioner Willard assumed the chair while Chairperson Simon, accompanied by Vice Chair Gould and Ms. Hedge, met briefly with Kathy Besser, Legislative Assistant in the office of Representative Barbara Vucanovich (R-NV).]

Library Statistics Program

John Lorenz, Coordinator, Library Statistics Program (LSP), noted that LSP is now in its eighth year. The Memorandum of Agreement for FY 1996 has been signed, with \$260,000 being transferred from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to NCLIS. This is \$40,000 less than the FY 1995 amount, however, NCES will assume the cost of meeting travel, hotel, and per diem reimbursements through conference contractors for the second six months of the fiscal year.

The fourth annual Library and Information Services Policy Forum will be held May 20-21, 1996, in Washington, DC. All Commissioners are invited to participate if they are in the area at this time.

Returning to the topic of 'knowledge navigators,' Commissioner Furlong requested statistics and/or information on:

- who they are;
- how many there are;
- identifying the intermediaries; and
- identifying the functions they perform.

With this type of data, NCLIS could be in a position to recommend policy and write speeches on the role of intermediaries. "Data is needed on the human infrastructure question," Commissioner Furlong urged.

Commissioner DiPrete praised the LSP, noting that public library data has improved significantly and academic library data continues to improve. Carol Henderson, ALA, agreed, stating, "Because of NCLIS' involvement in statistics, NCES has paid more attention to library data. As a result, better and more recent library data is now available." Ms. Henderson cautioned that if Library Programs moves from the Education Department to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NCLIS may want to make sure that the Department does not back off from its commitment of data collection. "Stay alert!" she cautioned.

Survey of Public Libraries and Internet Connectivity

Mr. Young noted that the Executive Director's Report, Tab C, presents an up-to-date summary on this activity. "As far as I understand, no one else in the field is doing this type of research. I think this project is very critical to NCLIS in answering the question, 'How do you move into the future?'"

Family Friendly Libraries

Mr. Young called attention to item 7 of the Executive Director's Report. The Family Friendly Libraries (FFL) group has been organized to replace the American Library Association's "*Library Bill of Rights*" with new principles that include restricting children's and adolescents' access to certain materials in libraries. The FFL's developing charter includes policies that would require libraries to seek out materials that support traditional family values, to follow local community standards and laws in selecting materials, to ban displays of explicit sexual materials, and to encourage resident's participation in setting library policies. Mr. Young stated, "I think we will see a number of different groups and organized challenges to traditional functions within libraries. I personally feel that responding to these challenges is absolutely essential to keep libraries and what they do vital. Shying away from these perceived threats is a mistake. The more we can engage in dialogue about what we do as a Commission and what libraries do for society the healthier it will be for all of us. Challenges are good!"

Committee on Information Policies

This portion of the meeting focused on NCLIS planning activities related to public access to and use of government information and possible NCLIS support for research on public use of government information.

Commissioner DiPrete, Chair, Information Policies Committee, stated that pursuing this topic fits in perfectly with the Commission's mandate of being the 'public's voice' in the use of libraries and information services. She called attention to the memorandum dated October 4, 1995, *Information Policies Committee: Research about Government Information Use*, included under Tab F of the meeting notebook. The memorandum highlights:

1. Summary of September 12, 1995, Information Policies Committee conference call;
2. Summary of September 13, 1995, NCLIS conference call relating to government information;
3. Considerations related to research about government information use;
4. Research questions about government information use;
5. Methodology for research about government information use; and
6. Related research studies about surveys of Government Depository Libraries and Use.

Mr. Young was requested to 'set the scene' for today's events in the area of government information. He began by calling attention to the revised topic background

sheet, *Federal Information Dissemination Policy*, Tab A of the meeting notebook, which states:

"The Commission should devote priority attention to the improvement of public access to federal information resources and services. NCLIS should devote priority attention to issues related to the implementation of the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Enhancement Act, to reviewing the effectiveness of Government Information Locator Service (GILS), and to a successful transition to an effective government electronic information system. In addition the sheet outlines previous NCLIS involvement, related 1991 WHCLIS recommendations, and the current situation."

Pages 3-4 of the October 4, 1995, memo calls for NCLIS to define specific research objectives for a user study of information for the public. Possible research questions for study and consideration in formulating plans for an NCLIS research project are presented, in no specific order.

Commissioner Furlong stated that the quality and importance of this research arm is critical. Assuming NCLIS survives and thrives, concentration should be on doubling NCLIS' budget. She asked the Commission to consider this 'big' idea: There should be a public communication evangelist arm of NCLIS. There could be a research division and a public awareness evangelist division, with different roles for staff. There currently is an incredible window of opportunity, given the NIIAC transition. If we want to assume that responsibility, it will require that we become policy representatives for some of their initiatives. A half-time "techie" person would be needed, and we need to be creative in finding the right person. I encourage the Commissioners to respond a little more boldly to these ideas. . . . Consensus around priorities is the key issue."

The final NIIAC report is scheduled to be presented to the President, Vice President, and Secretary of Commerce Brown on January 30, 1996.

[At this point, Mr. Abramson introduced Senator Conrad Burns of Montana. Senator Burns praised the Commission, stating, "You are doing a great job. Keep up the good work!"]

Chairperson Simon agreed that the Commission must have a clear vision and must keep its spirits up. The need for creativity and partnerships to support some of these research endeavors, including carrying on the work of the NIIAC, was discussed. To this end, Commissioner Furlong suggested the McArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and/or funders of the NIIAC, as possible supporters. She stated, "With adequate funding, some of the core staff activities could be dedicated to building a stronger NCLIS base to allow us to pull more widely from segments of government and to have the resources to dramatically influence the priority policy questions. . . . There is no better person in this country to gracefully carry forward this message than our Chairperson. We need to be the

'wind beneath her sails'. Together we can make a real difference. With this kind of fire, energy, and enthusiasm, we can say we are ready! And, we need to let the NIIAC know we are ready." The Commissioners reacted very favorably to Commissioner Furlong's statement, and Chairperson Simon applauded Commissioner Furlong's enthusiasm and initiative and called for suggestions for reaching this point.

Commissioner Willard stated, "This is a compelling time; we need to be better organized in order to be in a position to take advantage. But, it takes money. If we could make the economy 1/100th of a percent more efficient by wise use of technology, we would have paid ten times our budget for ten dozen years. This is the sort of long-range vision NCLIS needs."

Commissioner Willard then suggested that there is a tremendous amount of merit in the concept of studying what end-users really need and want with regard to public information/government information. This may be the right time to engage in partnership building, e.g., ALA, IIA, etc. "There may be other interests groups that would see a benefit in the knowledge of this activity and be willing to engage in support," he suggested.

Commissioner Roberts suggested that the Commission make a conscious effort to develop a plan (perhaps four or five projects) which it could reasonably handle, stating that you cannot look for outside money without a plan. He also urged a decision on whether or not the Commission would proceed with the study on access to government information. Commissioner DiPrete agreed, stating, "We always seem to discuss what we are going to do, but without quite getting there!"

Vice Chair Gould suggested that the Commission formulate its plan for an NCLIS 1996 research project by identifying the top priorities from the proposed list of research questions outlined in the October 4 memo.

Following a brief break, Mr. Lorenz read the following excerpt from *American Libraries*, December 1995, entitled, "Twelve Ways Libraries Are Good For The Country:

- #1. Inform Citizens. Libraries make democracy work by providing access to information so that citizens can make the decisions necessary to govern themselves;
- #2. Break Down Boundaries;
- #3. Level the Playing Field;
- #4. Value the Individual;
- #5. Nourish Creativity;
- #6. Open Kids' Minds;
- #7. Return High Dividends;
- #8. Build Communities;
- #9. Make Families Friendlier;

- #10. Offend Everyone;
- #11. Offer Sanctuary; and
- #12. Preserve the Past”

The article also quotes NCLIS' *Principles of Public Information*: “Public information is information owned by the people and held in trust by their government.” Copies of this article will be provided to Commissioners.

Returning to the strategic planning discussion, Mr. Young updated the Commission on GILS, the Government Information Locator Service, which has created much excitement within the government. He suggested the Chairperson meet the new Archivist, Hon. John W. Carlin, to propose that the Commission, perhaps through partnership, evaluate GILS from the user's point of view. Answers are needed to questions, such as: (1) How does GILS serve the public interest?; (2) How effective is GILS' access and location tools in guiding users to government information?; and (3) What has GILS accomplished in the past year?

Commissioner Roberts suggested that the government could save money by providing libraries with a voucher for X amount of money to purchase the government information they need, based on their users' needs and wants. “Government information is alien to everything that a library does. . . Let the users decide what they need instead of the government anticipating their needs. The real question is how to involve the public's help in selecting the library's information.”

Commissioner Furlong, in supporting the GILS research, cautioned the staff in three areas:

1. Electronic focus groups, as well as focus groups in person, are necessary;
2. A clear understanding of what other guides are already on-line, as well as the nature and feature of those guides, is necessary. Build on the thinking already in place!; and
3. If possible, this research should be supported by other groups concerned with this issue.

Chairperson Simon agreed with item #3, and stated that the Archivist was referring to a coalition and/or help from other interested groups.

MOTIONS

It was moved by Joel Valdez, seconded by Carol DiPrete, that the Chairperson meet with the Archivist to discuss the GILS research project.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Kay Riddle, that as another means of focusing on research on government information use that each

Commissioner highlight three questions (prior to the meeting on Friday morning) from the October 4, 1995 memorandum for the purpose of helping the Commission design the study.

The motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Guests and Observers

Richard Akeroyd, Liaison for COSLA, stated that, contrary to some thinking that the Commission is 'unknown,' the Commission is often quoted and its reports are often considered invaluable. He also proposed approaching COSLA to request their consideration in formally establishing a mutually beneficial and stronger working relationship between NCLIS and COSLA. [A copy of Mr. Akeroyd's follow-up proposal for joint COSLA and NCLIS activities was distributed as ID #96-03).]

Claude Blakely, Liaison for WHCLIST, discussed the importance of partnerships and stated that WHCLIST also wants to form a solid and strong partnership with NCLIS to help each other achieve their common goals. Through the WHCLIST 'hotline' call on December 4, members were urged to contact their Representatives to encourage passage of S.143, the Telecommunications Act, and approval of the Senate Committee's recommendation for NCLIS' FY 1996 appropriation. Citing several success stories, Mr. Blakely stated, "Fund raising works. If we are going to survive and thrive in these economic times, this is important."

Beth Bingham, Liaison for WHCLIST, stressed continued partnerships and the need to remember the end-users. She stated, "We need to work together to develop a clear message to communicate to the users."

Peyton Neal, Liaison for IIA, expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to attend the NCLIS 25th anniversary. He stated, "Tomorrow is the day that really counts; the day when we nail down what NCLIS will be doing over the next 25 years."

Elinor Swaim, Former NCLIS Vice Chair, stated, "I believe in the 'building-concepts' philosophy. Former Commissioners can lobby, and we need to keep up with these important contacts."

Charles Reid, Former NCLIS Chairman, encouraged fund raising to carry on the work of the Commission. He called for the Commission to address the challenge of assuring that everyone has access to the information highway.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Friday, December 15, 1995
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

Jeanne H. Simon, NCLIS Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She said that the NCLIS 25th anniversary reception at the Library of Congress was a wonderful success and she expressed appreciation to Commissioner Taylor and her Committee.

Commissioner-Designee Walter Anderson was recognized, welcomed, and presented with an NCLIS logo pin by Jeanne. She asked him to say a few words about his interest in serving on the Commission. Mr. Anderson stated that, as a victim of child abuse, when a safe haven was needed, he went to his neighborhood library. There, the librarians encouraged him to read and in reading he could imagine himself out of the slums and away from the pain.

Mr. Anderson stated: "My commitment to libraries and literacy comes right back to my childhood. What appeals to me most about the Commission is that there is an opportunity to make a difference for those children whom we will never see; children generations from now. You cannot overestimate the impact of the good work this Commission can do. If you think you have to make the choice of choosing between a book and a computer, think again. I believe that libraries must maintain their preeminent position as the place for information. That means spending the effort, the money, and the time to preserve books. That is the future and you can make a choice: either step away from it or become involved. My interest is in education, from pre-school to the elderly. That is who I am."

[The chair was briefly turned over to Commissioner Challinor while the Chairman, Vice Chair Gould, and Ms. Hedge visited Senator Harry Reid, D-NV.]

Planning NCLIS 1996 activities

GILS

Mr. Young distributed a fact sheet on GILS, the Government Information Locator Service, as background for continuing the discussion of NCLIS plans for 1996 activities relating to policies for dissemination of government information.

Research about Government Information Use

Each Commissioner marked the top three priorities from the listing of possible research questions for study and consideration in formulating plans for an NCLIS research project relating to government information use.

Discussion centered around whether the Commission was in a position to perform significant research related to users' use of and need for government information, with or without outside assistance. The questions of user needs, audience, and influence were also raised. In response, Commissioner DiPrete stated, "We can influence by developing data/information which could add to the user's knowledge base."

As clarification, Commissioner Furlong suggested exploring the Department of Commerce's future plans in terms of citizen/customer feedback in order to avoid replication. Commissioner Valdez suggested that the Library Statistics Program could be a resource, in place, for this type of research.

Commissioner Roberts suggested that what is needed is a statistical and/or study model which asks the right questions, e.g., What does the public want?; What does the public need?; What information is available?; and How do we make the information fit the needs of the users? He further suggested shaping the study after the *Public Libraries and the Internet* study report to form a credible research proposal for submission to private foundations.

Commissioner Furlong suggested that the Commission is in need of synthesis and scope and recommended that the staff (and/or researcher) prepare a well-sequenced, carefully-honed research proposal, with philosophical questions and answers. She also suggested that it is imperative that electronic dissemination strategy be included in the proposal and offered to talk with Sally Katzen, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, regarding this issue. Tentative plans call for discussion of this draft proposal during the January conference call.

NCLIS Template

Commissioner Challinor suggested, and the Commission agreed, that all Commission projects, studies, programs, etc., operate within a template composed of the following questions:

1. What do we wish to accomplish?
2. How do we wish to achieve this accomplishment?
3. Is anyone else undertaking this task at present?
4. That which we generate, how do we make it effective?
5. To whom, and how do we make it effective?
6. What resources/funds are required?

Status Report on the NII Advisory Council

Commissioner Willard, NCLIS Liaison to the NIIAC, expressed gratitude to both the Chairperson and his employer for being allowed to serve in this capacity, which he considers a wonderful experience and process. He noted that he has missed only one NIIAC meeting.

By the end of the meeting, Commissioner Willard expressed his hope that the following would have been accomplished:

1. Knowledge gained about the NIIAC;
2. Discussion/decision regarding NCLIS' future role regarding issues spurred by the NIIAC; and
3. Review/discuss/decision on what, if anything, NCLIS should do regarding the Exon Amendment.

Commissioner Willard described the NIIAC as one of the most artfully-balanced political groups he has ever seen assembled. Membership covered a wide range of interests and diversity with very high-level people willing to contribute much of their time. However, the NIIAC could have benefitted from NCLIS' style of open meetings. NIIAC documents were considered draft and not for distribution, and visitors were not encouraged to participate. Generally, the NIIAC met two days (one day in subgroups) every two months for two years.

In March 1995 the NIIAC began thinking about its 'sunset' (December 31, 1995) and developed the concept, *KickStart*. A *KickStart* project team was formed to develop a handbook/guide which describes how to actually apply the BIG concept of the information highway to local community libraries, centers, and schools. The *KickStart* project is based on the premise that all three of these access points must be brought on-line for individuals of all ages and economic backgrounds to have access to the NII by the year 2000. The *KickStart* project report will emphasize that K-12 should be the initial focus of these community efforts. Commissioner Willard offered to provide copies of the handbook to all Commissioners when it is formally issued.

Commissioner-Designee Anderson asked, "What short- and long-term opportunities exists for NCLIS in the wake of NII?" In reply, Commissioner Furlong suggested that NCLIS feature monthly creative stories that cite positive examples of the NII (like North Carolina's Charlotte's Web) which could, in terms of the continued work of the NII, serve as a public service resource. She informed the Commission that Mr. Samuel Simon, President, Issue Dynamics, has offered to design and host an NCLIS home page on the WWW, *pro bono*, if the Commission so decided. "We cannot go forward with an NIIAC transition effort without an electronic presence," she urged. Mr. Anderson agreed stating, "It is inconceivable, and an embarrassment, that NCLIS, right now, does not have a homepage. This must be an immediate priority."

[Chairperson Simon reported that during the meeting, Senator Reid offered continuing support for both libraries and the Commission. In discussion with Sue Mabry, Legislative Assistant to Senator Reid, Ms. Hedge proposed that microagencies (such as NCLIS) receive a 10 percent across-the-board appropriation cut, as opposed to the overall 25 percent cut for all agencies. Ms. Mabry promised to follow up on this suggestion. Commissioners were encouraged to follow-up on this viable idea with their respective contacts in the House and Senate.]

MOTION

It was moved by Martha Gould, seconded by Carol DiPrete, that NCLIS make the development of a homepage a top priority. That the Executive Director meet with Samuel Simon, President, Issue Dynamics, as soon as possible, calling on the Commission's advice and expertise as needed. Further, the Executive Director should locate the server to create (and maintain) the homepage by January 30, 1996, for the goal of carrying forth some of the work of the NIIAC.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Furlong volunteered to work with Mr. Young on this project. She also offered to provide Commissioners with a copy of *Young at Heart*, a publication which serves as a "stepping stone" of basic terminology.

As one NCLIS goal for 1996, Commissioner Furlong proposed an implementation plan to carry forth some of the recommendations from the NIIAC. Commissioner Roberts suggested that decisions in this area be made after staff analysis of the NIIAC final report, which is scheduled to be formally presented on January 30, 1996.

Commissioner Willard stated that January 30, 1996, clearly sets a deadline for NCLIS to 'raise its flag and point to its statute' and to extend its offer to continue representing the American public in the area of the implementation responsibility and information policy.

MOTION

It was moved by Robert Willard, seconded by Mary Furlong, that, as suggested by Ms. Hedge, the Commission 'seize the moment' and appoint an advisory committee composed of those NIIAC members with a desire to continue working on implementation, predicated on raising appropriate funds. Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Commission has that power and has done so before.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners agreed that NCLIS should be present at the formal presentation on January 30 -- with this plan in place -- so that, as part of the press conference, the NIIAC can announce that NCLIS is the catalyst in place which can bring this all about. If possible, Chairperson Simon will arrange a meeting with Vice President Gore to discuss this plan. Commissioner Abramson cautioned that the art would be to have the NIIAC think this was their idea. "Do not steal their thunder," he advised.

In summary, the Commission has established the following priorities:

1. Develop communication strategy via
 - Developing public awareness
 - Developing the homepage
2. Research about Government Information Use (based upon template);
3. Develop transition of NIIAC through FACA to NCLIS
 - Develop strategy, evaluation, and plan; and
4. Develop human resources' aspect of the NII, i.e., How do the constituents feel about the NII initiatives? How can NCLIS provide input?

Vice Chair Gould offered to chair a group to develop strategy for the NIIAC transition to NCLIS. Commissioners Furlong, Sudduth, and Willard also volunteered their assistance.

Cyberporn

MOTION

It was moved by Robert Willard, seconded by Carol DiPrete, that NCLIS endorse and adopt the following language as presented by the NIIAC. Further, NCLIS will forward this statement with accompanying support letter to the Conferees on the Telecommunications Act, the Secretary of Commerce, and Members of the NIIAC. Further, NCLIS recommends to the Conferees to withdraw this provision from the bill under consideration to give the public, and itself, more time to study the issue of free speech in a digital environment.

"The government should not be in the business of regulating content on the Information Superhighway. It should defer to the use of privately provided filtering, reviewing and rating mechanisms, and parental supervision as the best means of preventing access by minors to inappropriate materials."

The motion carried unanimously.

WHCLIS III

Claude Blakely, NCLIS Liaison for WHCLIST, requested Commission consideration on a third White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), perhaps combined with the 2001 IFLA Conference in Boston. Commissioner DiPrete discouraged this combination inasmuch as IFLA hotel/conference space has been reserved for months. During an around-the-table discussion (which included guests and observers) regarding a WHCLIS III, both positive and negative comments were voiced. "If you really want to make a difference, plan a global conference," Mr. Young urged.

NCLIS Meeting Plans

Suggestions for 1996 Commission meetings included:

- American Association of Publishers, Washington, DC - March 13-15;
- Public Libraries Association, Portland, OR. - March 26-30. (If the Commission decides not to meet in conjunction with this conference, Commission representation should be included in the conference program. Suggestions for attendance were Commissioners Abramson, Gould; or Roberts.)
- Information Industry Association, Electronic Technology Information Conference and Workshop on Electronic Rights Management, Triangle Park, NC, - March 27-29.
- Interactive Services Association, San Diego, CA - July 21-24.
- Meeting at the Air Force Academy, the first university to have a computer in every room -- a real 'eye opener'.

Commission representation at appropriate conferences and meetings was encouraged. Mr. Young offered to provide assistance in developing presentations or talking points for Commissioners, as requested.

NCLIS Travel Reimbursements and Salaries for Members

Because of the uncertainties related to NCLIS' FY 1996 appropriation and/or continuing resolutions which continue to fund federal agencies beyond 15 December 1995, Commissioners were forewarned that they might experience unusually long delays in receiving their travel reimbursement and salaries for attendance at this meeting.

NCLIS Conference Call

Funds permitting, the next NCLIS conference call will be held in January 1996, with discussion of the next NCLIS meeting a priority agenda item.

Concluding Remarks

Chairperson Simon stated, "I think I chair the most wonderful Commission that the United States could produce. I believe we are re-energized, re-vitalized, and right on target. This is, indeed, a Renaissance.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.